

Glace Bay EXTRA Edition

Shalom! **שלום!**

August 2001

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(25 years of memories through Shalom Magazine)

COME HOME

~ Kuma – Haym ~

Celebrating Jewish Life in Glace Bay

~ The 100th Anniversary of the Synagogue in Glace Bay, NS ~

August 2-5, 2001

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT, ATLANTIC JEWISH COUNCIL

It is with enormous enthusiasm that I congratulate Glace Bay on this exciting Kuma - Haym. There are few communities that can boast such a distinguished and diverse history as Glace Bay. It is indeed an achievement that you have brought back to the community so many people who have shared this rich history.

The early settlers that first came to Glace Bay in the late nineteenth century recognized the centrality of the synagogue to Jewish life. Although most were struggling as peddlers or with small retail businesses, this small group of Jewish families managed to construct the synagogue. The importance placed on the building of the synagogue can be measured in a number of ways, however, the best indicator was seen by the contribution of funds by some families even before they bought their own homes. The community, as some of you may remember, flourished in this period. A Ladies Aid group, a Hadassah chapter, a Habonim Lodge, a Yiddish theatre group, Young Judeans as well as many other Jewish groups were all started and a Talmud Torah was built. It is astounding to think that this vibrant community was established by a small group of Jews who, for the most part, came to Glace Bay with no English and little money. What they did have, however, is a real sense of Yiddishkeit, and a profound commitment to Jewish communal life. Those of us in my generation stand in awe of their spirit and dedication.

It is for this reason that I assume that there will be many imposters posing as "wanna be" former Glace Bayers and I must admit somewhat shamefacedly that I too am trying to pass. My dad's first job in Canada was as the Rabbi in New Waterford and we used to return every summer to visit Tzippi Medjuck with whom my father boarded. During these visits we would also spend a great deal of time in Glace Bay with our cousins - Saul, Bessie and Judith Medjuck and so I am hoping that these are sufficient credentials to let me sneak through as a local. Certainly I share with you the same warm memories of extraordinary kindness and love that I felt from everyone on these wonderful trips to Cape Breton.

My congratulations go out to the organizing committee who have done a superb job and who have worked extra-ordinarily hard to make the Kuma - Haym a tremendous success. To all the current and former Glace Bayers (and to the "wanna be" ones as well), a sincere and heartfelt Mazel Tov.

Sheva Medjuck

From the desk of the Executive Director, Jon Goldberg

It is indeed a pleasure for me and all the staff here at the Atlantic Jewish Council, in particular, Marie Herschorn, Associate Editor, to produce this special edition of Shalom Magazine in honour of the 100th anniversary of the Synagogue in Glace Bay. While the Atlantic Jewish Council has only been in existence for a little over 25 years, the Jewish community of Atlantic Canada is well aware of the century of Jewish life in Glace Bay and its many contributions over these past 100 years to Jewish life in Cape Breton, the Atlantic Region, throughout Canada and Israel.

During these past 10 years as Executive Director of the AJC it has been a pleasure for me to have dealt with so many wonderful and concerned citizens of the Glace Bay Jewish community.

In particular, I want to congratulate Shirley Chernin, Betty Shore, David Ein and all who have worked so long and hard to bring this Kuma - Haym to fruition. I look forward to joining in the celebration and to meet as many of you as I can during the weekend.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GLACE BAY!

(Shalom - Summer 1976)

The Atlantic Jewish Council extends congratulations and a hearty "Mazel Tov" to Congregation Sons of Israel of Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, on the occasion of the congregation's 75th anniversary.

A GALA banquet held on May 23rd and a festive summer picnic in July serve to officially mark this most memorable event.

The Glace Bay Jewish Community has been at the forefront of Jewish and Zionist affairs throughout the years, and the Atlantic Jewish Council takes pleasure in saluting Glace Bay's Jewish Community on the occasion of its diamond jubilee.

Congregation Sons of Israel
P.O. Box 60
Glace Bay, Nova Scotia B1A 5V2

July 20, 2001

Dear friends,

On behalf of the Executive and Board of the United Israel Appeal Federations Canada we are delighted to extend a hearty Mazal Tov and Yeshar Koach to your Congregation and community as you gather from all four corners of the continent to celebrate 100 years of achievement.

Wherever Jews from Glace Bay may reside they still speak of Glace Bay as "der heim". There they imbibed the intrinsic values of Yiddishkeit and menshlichkeit that have not only enriched their lives but the communities lucky enough to have them.

Israel has been a major beneficiary of your membership's generosity. And, how could it have been otherwise? Your love and pride in Israel comes as naturally to you as your very identity as Jews. Your community is truly an inspiration to us all.

We wish you a wonderful Kum Aheim celebration, a celebration we are sure that will be remembered with joy and thanks for the next 100 years.

Sincerely,

Yoine Goldstein
President

Maxyne Finkelstein
Exec. Vice President

Dov Harris
Director, Financial Resource Development



Dear Friends:

On behalf of Canadian Jewish Congress it gives me great pleasure to bring greetings and words of congratulations to the Glace Bay Jewish community as it celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Congregation Sons of Israel. Mazal Tov!

This wonderful gathering that you have aptly titled "KUM A-HAYM" will be a tremendous reunion of old friends and family members and I wish you much joy in your celebrations. Although many of you are spread far and wide across the continent I am truly impressed with the attachments you have maintained to Glace Bay and the Sons of Israel.

I was inspired reading the postings on the website "Dreambook" that was specially created for this event. The connections and memories held not only by residents and former residents, but by the children and grandchildren speak volumes of the richness of Jewish life in Glace Bay.

Milestone anniversaries provide an opportunity for one to look back and reflect. I took this occasion to engage in a little historical research in the Canadian Jewish Congress archives. It revealed a vibrant past and many connections to this organization.

In 1916, an example of Jewish political activism not common for the era, saw community leader, Isadore Levine, writing to Nova Scotia Premier J.C. Douglas decrying the scheduling of provincial high school exams on Saturday. In a speech in the House of Assembly, the premier called this "grave injustice to the Hebrew citizens of the province" and that many of the "brightest and most promising students of Cape Breton came from Hebrew homes." This resulted in the arrangement of another set of examinations to be set up for the following Monday.

A few of the many examples of the community's association with CJC include: correspondence from Congress's second president S.W. Jacobs in 1935 to Mr. B. Hamburg about the organization's activities; a pamphlet signed by William Chemin publicizing a speech by CJC research director Louis Rosenberg held at the Glace Bay Talmud Torah in 1950; and a news clipping reporting on Mr. Chemin's speech to delegates at the CJC seventh Plenary Assembly at Montreal in 1947. There are also numerous other chronicles of Glace Bay's Jewish life and of the Glace Bay Zionist Society.

The Jewish community of Glace Bay can be very proud of the extraordinary contributions its members have made to Jewish life in Canada. I pay tribute to that as you commemorate this important anniversary of your schul.

May you always go from strength to strength. Yasher Koach

Keith M. Landy
National President
Canadian Jewish Congress



On behalf of the National Officers and the entire membership of Canadian Hadassah-WIZO, I am pleased to extend heartiest congratulations to the Glace Bay community on its 100th anniversary of the Glace Bay Synagogue, Congregation Sons of Israel. As a daughter of Cape Breton, it gives me special pleasure to be able to participate in "Glace Bay 100".

What a remarkable accomplishment! 100 years of devotion and active participation by all the dedicated, hard working members of the Glace Bay community. And – I am proud to say – for almost 80 years Hadassah-WIZO has been a part of this wonderful record. The Glace Bay Chapter of Canadian Hadassah-WIZO was formed after Lillian Freiman visited in 1922. The Chapter was initiated through the untiring efforts of its first President, Dora Siegel.

Today, with the Sydney Chapter, the Glace Bay Chapter forms our Cape Breton Council. Though the membership is decreasing the work of Hadassah-WIZO is still being done and done well. Each and every member works extremely hard to help ensure that we raise much-needed dollars to meet our commitments both here and in Israel. While many larger centres no longer hold bazaars, Cape Breton still continues to hold successful ones.

We in Canadian Hadassah-WIZO salute the people of Glace Bay and wish you all yasher koach. We look forward to continuing to work with all of you. Together we will go from strength to strength. Mazel Tov on the 100th anniversary of your synagogue.

Marion (Blonder) Mayman, National President
Canadian Hadassah-WIZO



October/77

GLACE BAY CONGREGATION SONS OF



Left to right: Dr. Phil Simon (President, Congregation Sons of Israel), Mayor Dan. A. Munroe (Glance Bay, N.S.), Mr. Justice J.L. Dubinsky (of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia), Mr. Philip Givens, Q.C., M.P.P. (President Canadian Zionist Federation).

by Phil Simon

On the weekend of May 21-23 the Jewish community of Glance Bay celebrated one of the most spectacular and impressive events in its history - namely, the commemoration of 75 years of existence.

The festivities began with a beautiful Shabbat service held on Saturday, May 22. Yehushua Steiner conducted the Shahrith service along with the Torah reading, Mr. Saul Shore was honored with the Maftir, and Mr. Justice J.L. Dubinsky concluded with the Musaf service. Dr. Philip Simon, president of the congregation, extended greetings and a Kiddush was held in the Talmud Torah.

The highlight of the weekend was a banquet held at the Talmud Torah on May 23 which will long be remembered by the members of the congregation. Mrs. Sharon Jacobson received many well deserved compliments for the "Project Room" which she masterminded. The pictures and other relics of the past, related to the congregations' history brought back many memories of yester-year. Her excellent artistic skills resulted in one of the most innovative and meaningful displays ever to be beheld.

The head table guests included: Mrs. Justice J.L. Dubinsky and his wife, Mayor Dan Munroe and his wife, Mr. Philip Givens, Q.C., M.P.P. -- the guest speaker who was a former alderman and mayor of the city of Toronto and currently the president of the Canadian Zionist Federation as well as a member of the Legislature. Mr. Ben Prossin L.L.B. who is now serving a term as president of the Atlantic Jewish Council, Mr. Saul Shore, past president of the congregation and his wife, Rabbi and Mrs. Y. Weinberg, Yehushua Steiner, Colonel M. Gur and finally Dr. Philip Simon, toastmaster for the evening and his wife.

The invocation was delivered by Yehushua Steiner and toasts to the queen and state of Israel were proposed by Mrs. Bella Shore. A most gracious and delicious supper was served under the direction of Mrs. Shirley Chernin and a booklet commemorating this unforgettable occasion was found at each setting. Miss Fanny Cohen took a very active role in the publication of this booklet. The hall itself was beautifully decorated under the supervision of Miss Susan Shore and her Judaeen committee.

Dr. Phil Simon commenced the program by requesting all to rise and remember the pioneers of the community who were instrumental in the development of the congregation. On behalf of the congregation Dr. Simon extended congratulations to the town of Glance Bay also marking its diamond jubilee.

The toastmaster introduced Mayor Munroe by calling him a man of action and one who has gained the respect and admiration of all. Mayor Munroe conveyed his best wishes to the congregation on behalf of the town and praised our community for taking an active role in communal activities. Mayor Munroe concluded by presenting Mr. Givens with a plaque commemorating the town's 75th jubilee. Following this presentation, Miss Fanny Cohen, president of the Ladies Auxilliary honored Mayor Munroe with a gift of which he was very appreciative.

Dr. Simon next introduced Mr. Justice J.L. Dubinsky who is admired for his dedication to the congregation throughout the years. Mr. Justice Dubinsky reflected upon those who were responsible for erecting the



Left to right, Mrs. Shirley Chernin receiving special award in recognition of community service from Miss Fanny Cohen on behalf of Congregation Sons of Israel.

synagogue and Talmud Torah. After touching on a few more highlights that occurred in the congregation's past, Mr. Justice Dubinsky stated that he hoped "G-d would continue to bless this congregation."

Upon extending heartfelt wishes, Mr. Irwin Epstein, on behalf of the Sydney Temple Sons of Israel presented the Glance Bay congregation with a plaque to commemorate the occasion.

Mrs. Shirley Chernin was honored by Miss Fanny Cohen for her "many works of merit in the community," Mr. Saul Shore was honored by Mr. Isaac Ein for his devoted service to the congregation and involvement in many worthwhile causes, Mr. Beinus Lipkus, dean of the congregation was honored by Dr. Phil Simon as one of the patriarchs of the Jewish community, Mr. Sander Zilbert was honored by Dr. Simon for his devoted interest to the Synagogue and Jewish life, and last of all the toastmaster, Dr. Simon, was honored by Mr. Elliot Marshall, vice-president of the congregation, for his many years of dedicated service and special mention was made of his very active role in the 75th anniversary celebrations. The ladies of the congregation who have been members since its inauguration 75 years ago, were presented with roses. Colonel M. Gur, a distinguished guest representing the J.N.F., presented an award to the congregation in recognition of their acquiring a "Forester Project" in Canada Park at this significant time.

Mr. Phil Givens, the guest speaker, upon being introduced by Mr. Ben Prossin, began by expressing his admiration of our community. Mr. Givens stressed the importance of being a good Jew, along with taking an interest in one's community. The guest speaker spoke about Israel and voiced his support of Zionism. After thanking the congregation for all their hospitality, Mr. Elliot Marshall presented Mr. Givens with a gift on behalf of the congregation. As this most memorable event came to a close, Rabbi Weinberg conducted the grace after meals.

ISRAEL MARKS 75th ANNIVERSARY

October/77



Mr. Ben Prossin, AJC President, introducing the guest speaker for the evening, flanked on the left by Phil Simon and on the right by Mayor and Mrs. Munroe.



Standing left to right: Dr. Phil Simon, Colonel Gur, Mr. Ellie Marshall as JNF Award is presented to Glace Bay community on occasion of its 75th anniversary in recognition of Congregation Sons of Israel \$25,000.00 contribution to Canada Park.



Dr. Phil Simon, left, presents special award to Mr. Sander Zilbert, community stalwart, as Mrs. Anita Dubinsky and Mr. Ben Prossin look on.



Left to right, Longtime Glace Bay resident Mr. Benus Lipkus and son Ben Lipkus following presentation of special award to Benus Lipkus.



Mr. Justice J.L. Dubinsky delivering the "Toast" to the community as Phil Givens, Q.C., M.P.P. and Mayor Dan Munroe look on.



Mr. Solomon Shore, left, past president of Congregation Sons of Israel, receiving special award of merit from Mr. Isaac Ein as Phil Givens and Mayor Munroe look on.

Community leader known as Dr. Phil

Dentist gets "roasted" by friends

By
FRANK RASKY

GLACE BAY, NS —
"He's a master of the podium, a wizard of the drill

If a cavity is shown to him, he attacks it for the kill. . . ."

The verse was meant to be amusing, but the affection was genuine when 100 of his Jewish friends in this coal mining town recently presented a "roast tribute to Dr. Phil."

As the 30 Jewish families here all know, Dr. Phil is Dr. Phil Simon, the 62-year-old dentist who has served as president of the Glace Bay Sons of Israel Synagogue for the last 13 years and altogether has been a leader of the Atlantic Provinces Jewish community for 40 years.

His good friends, Elliot Marshall, chairman of the United Jewish Appeal of Glace Bay, who runs the local Bus Stop Shop, thought it would be fun to stage a Dean Martin-style roast honoring the dentist who is known to everybody in town simply as Dr. Phil.

So the entire Jewish community — about 100 people of Glace Bay's population of 25,000 — turned out on a recent Sunday night at the Talmud Torah building next door to the 82-year-old Orthodox synagogue on Prince St.

Marshall, acting as emcee, had rigged up a telephone on the podium, which rang from time to time during the roast with messages from those who couldn't attend — ranging from former Prime Minister John Turner to local dignitary Dr. Sandy Hoffman.

The roasters, headed by Marshall — who presided with a glass of wine in hand and singing Everybody Loves Somebody Sometime — joined those absent in praising the man hailed as "the Jewish pillar of the Atlantic Provinces."

A special UJA plaque was presented to him by Daniel Mendelson and a synagogue plaque by Sander Zilbert.

And his wife, Jean Ruth, and his son, Dr. Allan Simon, a Toronto dentist, presented him with a scroll which signified the monetary contribution made in the family's name to furnish a dental operating room at the new dental school in Tel Aviv University.

"It was a very moving occasion," Dr. Phil Rosen said in an interview later with The CJN. "I'm very proud of helping meet the challenge of perpetuating our Jewish traditions in Glace Bay."

He pointed out that Glace Bay's Jewish community was founded in the 1890s by peddlers from Eastern Europe vending supplies to the coal miners. At one time, he recalls, there were 30 Jewish families, totaling about 600 people, one of the staunchest synagogue-goers being his father, Israel.

"But the community has dwindled since," he says. "The young people go to university, mostly to Toronto, and most of them don't come back."

However, he's glad to say a good many returned to attend services, packing the 125-seat synagogue during the recent High Holy Days.

Cantor Manny Aptowitzer was imported from

Toronto to officiate.

"In a way, lack of a rabbi and a cantor throughout the year has been a good thing for Glace Bay," says Simon, looking at the bright side. "It stimulates more members of the community to pitch in and participate."

Simon himself and other community leaders conduct services every Friday night and Saturday and Sunday mornings.

He says he can't predict what will happen to the synagogue in the future.

"It's a fact of life that the average age of our congregation members ranges from 55 to 60," he says. "What will happen when we oldtimers die off? I can't make that forecast. All I know is that we get a lot of satisfaction perpetuating our Jewish heritage at the building that we all call, simply, The Shul."

Participants in the roast tribute to Dr. Phil included Ben Lipkus, Auvie Druker, Helen Marshall, Shirley Chernin, Netti Simon, Len Schelew and Isaac Ein.



Dr. Phil Rosen was honored at a Glace Bay roast.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CONGREGATION SONS OF ISRAEL!!!

The Canadian Technion Society,
its Executive and Board of Directors
extends a hearty Mazel Tov
on this wonderful occasion!

We are deeply grateful for the support
that the Glace Bay Jewish community has shown
to the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology over the years.

YASHER KOACH!!

Glace Bay Nostalgia "Young Judaea" May/76

By Norman Lipshutz, Glace Bay

There has been a branch of the Young Judaeans National organization in existence in our community long before the advent of the Young Israel movement on the Glace Bay scene. During the intervening years it was overshadowed by the prominence and vigor of the dynamic Young Israel. However when these ranks were depleted and some of our leaders departed, it became very difficult to operate two youth organizations. It was with a great deal of soul-searching and no small measure of sadness that we decided to combine forces and to embark on the task of revitalizing Jewish youth activities in our town. Yet another miracle came to pass: battling against enormous odds we succeeded beyond all expectations.

Taking over from the fallen Judaeans leader Sophie Rukassin (who passed away in her prime of life and for whose funeral procession Judaeans have provided a guard of honour - indeed a very sad and tragic day for our community) - was the indomitable Daniel Mendelson. It can be truly said that had it not been for Daniel's zeal and enthusiasm during that difficult period - our Jewish youth movement would have surely faltered and perhaps disintegrated. But Daniel stood his ground like the traditional "Rock of Ages"; it took guts and stamina of the highest order.

He proceeded to convert former young Israelites - the writer of these lines included - into joining ranks with the Young Judaea - and in unison was assumed the formidable task of building an even stronger youth movement.

Three different groups - based on age - were formed - each with it's own elected executive. Shirley Borden and Carole Lipkus were the junior officers. Also very active in Judaeans affairs of those days were Doreen, Bernard and Hilroy Nathanson, (Dr.) Albert Prossin, Shirley Lipkus, Esther Meltzer, Sylvia Green, Elliot Green, Reitzie and Rochelle Cleiman and many others.

We succeeded in joining forces with the Sydney branch of the Canadian Young Judaea and in unison we established a programme of social and cultural functions second to none. The basement of the Talmud-Torah (lavishly furnished by the then active Y.M.H.A.) became the focus centre and gathering place of Jewish youth from the entire island - and many a summer night we danced and socialized in its environs with charming and vivacious teen-agers from Sydney, New Waterford and Whitney-Pier congregations.

Glace Bay sent strong delegations to Maritime Young Judaeans conventions - held annually at Camp Kadimah. Lively and spirited debates on Jewish and Zionist topics of those days were engaged in. In fact - two Judaeans teams from Glace Bay and Sydney often locked horns - to the acclaim of both communities; and Doreen Nathanson - coached by yours truly - went on from there to participate in a national Judean public-speaking competition held in Montreal - bringing back honours to our local branch in that she was awarded second prize. This occasion marked a red-letter day in the annals of the Glace Bay Jewish Youth Movement.

Came the historic year 1947 - when the United Nations' Assembly voted in favor of partition. Jews throughout the world were jubilant: after millennia of persecution, untold terrors, pogroms and massacres directed against our people in their dispersion - it came to pass that a body representative of world opinion confirmed the right of the Jewish people to a homeland of their own on the ancestral land of ancient Judea.

The writer of this chronicle considers the event as the pinnacle and culmination of all his hopes and dreams,

and as if fate had willed it - he was elected to the post of president of the Maritime Young Judaea at a convention held at Camp Kadimah that summer. Later that year he was called upon to toast the reborn State of Israel - at a banquet held in the Talmud Torah - with young guests and delegates from all parts of the Maritimes in attendance. Sharing honours during that memorable year were two other distinguished Glace Bay Judaeans leaders - namely Doreen Nathanson, Maritime secretary and Daniel Mendelson, Maritime J.N.F. Rosh.

Glace Bay's Jewish community has contributed more than its share of campers and counsellors for Camp Kadimah - and one of its sons, namely Ben Prossin was subsequently appointed as its Director. Dr. Mendel Burnstein - another Glace Bay native, for many years served in his capacity as camp-Doctor.

Camp Kadimah enriched many a Glace Bay youngster's life - and who can forget the open-air Sabbath services, the lively horah's the spirited debates, the exciting socializing - the discussions, the battles over resolutions, and especially the parties...at convention time?

"She came, she saw, she conquered" is the heading of an editorial in the "Young Judaeans" - national Young Judaeans Magazine of Montreal - with particular reference to a tour of our National Executive - Secretary, namely Faye Jospe (the present Mrs. (Dr.) Kronitz) through the Maritimes - and especially her visit to Glace Bay. Her lecture to a capacity audience of Young Judaeans and their parents in our Talmud Torah auditorium proved all inspiring and conducive to greater effort.

Robert Fox, field-worker, followed in her wake - and his visit likewise was greeted with zeal and enthusiasm.

Glace Bay Judaeans over the years participated in Keren-Kayemet collections and did an excellent job in the process. Special projects engaged in raised great sums for the redemption of the Land of Israel. In latter years Ben Prossin was the second "Bay Boy" to head the Maritime Young Judaea - and more recently yet another distinguished Judaeans, namely Norman Rosenblum, with many accomplishments to his credit, was elected President of the Canadian Young Judaea (Yehuda Ha'tzair) at a periodic National Convention.

Glace Bay Judaeans also played a role in Israel's War of Liberation and subsequent struggles and consolidation. Joe Siegel served in Israel's Air Force. The writer of these lines worked in the fields of Judea in the formative years of Israel's history. In subsequent years (Dr.) Arnie Eln, Anita Gordon, Nina Zilbert, Ben Prossin, Martha Sue Chernin, and more recently Sharon Simon made their noteworthy contributions while in Israel. Many were the young students who spent their summers in Zion and even more of our community who toured Israel and who played their part in the growth and development of the State.

ZIONIST FOOTNOTES

We shall be remiss if we were not to mention the specific contribution to the cultural life of our community made by veteran Zionist Joe Nathanson - editor of the Cape Breton Zionist, who was always lavish in his praise of Glace Bay Jewish youth - activities. He always encouraged the submission of articles and data relative to our Young Israel and Young Judaeans effort.

William Garber was yet another staunch Zionist - always on the offensive and one who dared to appear at National Conventions and lash out in fury against policies which he considered detrimental to the Zionist Movement or Ideology. He will always be remembered as a protagonist of the Yiddish Language.

May/76

UNITED ISRAEL APPEAL

CAPE BRETON CAMPAIGNS IN JUNE:

Sydney June 6

Glace Bay June 7



Louis Siegel, Sydney Chairman



Eli Marshall, Glace Bay Chairman

Sydney Chairman Louis Siegel and Glace Bay Chairman Eli Marshall have announced concurrent campaigns with kick-off dates of June 6 and June 7 respectively.

The guest Speaker for both campaigns will be Colonel Jacob Monbaz, former Consul General of Israel to Canada, and more recently Israel's Ambassador to Malawi.

June/77

ETHNIC CULTURE IN GLACE BAY

in Glace Bay

by Shirley Chernin

Hundreds of Glace Bay citizens, proud of their various origins and Ethnic Cultures, gathered at the Miner's Museum to celebrate "Brotherhood '77" in Glace Bay, sponsored by the Citizens Service; convened by Mrs. Shirley Chernin, League President.

The beautiful showing of local ethnic artifacts in the National Exhibit Centre was worthy of a national travelling exhibit. Cases representing Jewish, Ukrainian, Chinese, Greek, Polish, Indian, Austrian, German, British and Scottish cultures displayed many treasured items; rich in religious and ethnic traditions.

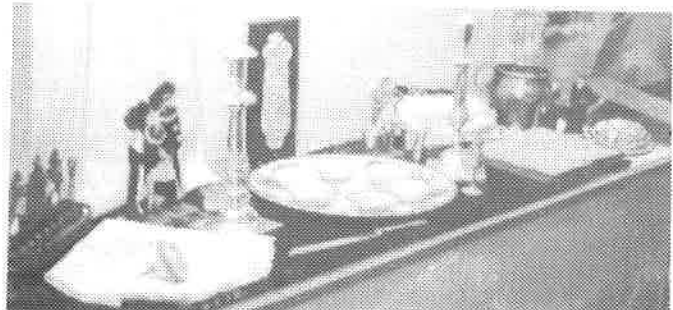
The evening's program—"Fabric of a Community" was portrayed in a slide tape presentation of early Glace Bay families soon after their arrival at the turn of the century when families and young men came to work in the coal mines. Commentator for the Jewish community was Fanny Cohen and she reminisced and related tales of her growing-up years in a coal mining town. The Jewish community was prominently integrated as early as 1900 in Glace Bay.

Pride in good food and baking was evident on the display table covered with beautiful breads and desserts from the finest cooks in Glace Bay kitchens. Prominently displayed were the Shabos "Challah," baked by Fanny Ziebert; ethnic "Bulka" by Sandra Chernin, and the traditional "Honey Cake" made by Fanny Cohen. All three recipes were incorporated into the Ethnic Cookbook dedicated to the

memory of the late Hilda Wright, Founder of the Citizens Service League.

In this year, when Cape Bretoners have seen and been interested in the T.V. series "Roots," it is interesting to note that "Roots" has been the underlying theme of Citizens Service League Brotherhood programs. The Fabric of a Community—'77 was an outstanding success, made possible by members of Glace Bay ethnic groups working together to host a most happy evening amongst friends in our community.

Contributors to the display case of Jewish artifacts were: Sheri Lecker, Diane Schwartz and Louis Siegel of Sydney, N.S.; Fanny Cohen, Shirley Chernin, Julia Ein, Dora Goldman, Edith Jacobson, Beinus Lipkus and Anne Zilbert of Glace Bay.



by Bruce Simon

On Sunday, May 21st, the Glace Bay Jewish Community, like so many other communities across the world, took time out to salute Israel on its 30th Anniversary. The gala event commenced at 7:00 pm at the Talmud Torah auditorium. A procession of those who attend Shabbat Services weekly marched into the auditorium in a rededication ceremony for the two torahs which had previously been sent to New York, where they had been reviewed by a scribe. This ceremony concluded with the singing of "Hatikva". A delicious turkey meal co-convened by **Mrs. Ann Zilbert** and **Mrs. Ruth Simon** followed the opening ceremonies. While dessert was being served, the movie "Shalom Little Town" was premiered. This movie depicted how small Jewish communities across the country are phasing out. Since the story of Glace Bay was taken up in the film, the audience had a special interest in seeing the movie. The movie was well recieved.

The traditional toast to Israel was then delivered by **Mr. Louis Siegel**. In his toast he expressed the need for Israel to remain strong and also his hope that a peace settlement would soon be obtained thus resulting in an eternal peace for the people of Israel.



Torah Service Snap—Dr. Phil Simon, Mr. Sander Zilbert, Mrs. Josh Stiner, and Stewart Sable.



30th Anniversary Birthday Cake Snap—Chery. Marshall, Mark Simon, Stewart Sable, Ben Schelew

The Glace Bay Youth then wheeled in a blue and white birthday cake singing "Happy Birthday" to the State of Israel. Chairman, **Dr. Phillip Simon**, expressed warm wishes on behalf of all Zionist Organizations and the Atlantic Jewish Council.

Mr. Ellie Marshall was then called upon to introduce the guest speaker, **Senator Jack Marshall**. Being a brother to the guest speaker allowed Ellie to be both personal and witty in his remarks.

Senator Marshall immediately put the audience at ease with his humorous Newfoundland jokes. In addition to wishing Israel well, he spoke on national unity. The senator made it clear that even minority groups must play their part in "Keeping Canada Together".

Mr. Mendel Chernin, a close friend to the Senator, was then called upon to thank the guest speaker. The Glace Bay community then presented **Senator Marshall** with a figurine coal miner. This presentation was made by **Mr. Sam Karrel**.

Chairman, **Dr. Phil Simon**, concluded the program by thanking those committee members who worked so diligently in organizing this affair. The tables were then quickly cleared away so that the dance could begin. Music was provided by the **Sam Dubinsky orchestra**.



*From Left to Right:
Mr. Sander Zilbert, Financial Secretary; Dr. Philip Simon, President Congregation; Senator Jack Marshall, Guest Speaker; Mr. Josh Steiner, Hebrew Teacher; Mr. Ellie Marshall, Vice-President.*

January / 82

Congregation Celebrates Anniversary and Chanukah

by Bruce Simon

The Glace Bay Jewish Community celebrated its 80th anniversary in 1981, and to highlight this event a special banquet was held on the evening of December 27. This date coincided with the last night of Chanukah making it a double mitzvah celebration.

Festivities commenced with a cocktail party and then moved on to the main auditorium where a three course Chanukah supper was served. Chairman for the evening program was **Dr. Phil Simon** who called upon several head table members to extend greetings to the Congregation on behalf of their organizations. These persons included **Mr. Martin Chernin**, President of the Atlantic Jewish Council; **His Worship Mayor Bruce Clarke**, mayor of the town of Glace Bay; **Mr. Ben Prossin**, a Vice-President of Canadian Jewish Congress and Deputy President of the Canadian Zionist Federation; and **Mr. Sam Sherman**, President of Temple Sons of Israel.

Rabbi Eli Lagnado expressed his deep concern for our troubled times and his prayers for a brighter future. A well-known Glace Bay celebrity, **Mr. Elliot Marshall** (also Vice-President of the Congregation), commented on the high quality of Jewish life maintained in Glace Bay over the years. He paid special tribute to Dr. Phil Simon for his role in promoting Yiddishkeit in the town. In depicting the character of the community, Ellie related humorous stories which brought tears and laughter to many eyes.

The chairman extended a special thanks to the following persons and their committees: **Mrs. Jen Cherun**, banquet convener; **Mr. Sam Karrel**, ticket committee chairman; **Mrs. Shirley Chernin**, responsible for decorations and table arrangements; and **Mrs. Edith Jacobson**, President of Ladies Aid.

The evening concluded with the entertainment of vocalist **Rivka Peled** and pianist **Yosef Milo** who thrilled the audience with their selection of Hebrew and Yiddish songs.

Did You Know?

*The word "Jew" evolved from the name of Jacob's son Judah, which means "to praise God." But the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as well as Moses, were never referred to as Jews.



Left to right: **Ben Prossin**, a Vice-President, Canadian Jewish Congress/Deputy President, Canadian Zionist Federation; **Mrs. Elliot Marshall**, Elliot Marshall, Vice-President, Sons of Israel Congregation; **Mrs. Eli Lagnado**, Rabbi Eli Lagnado; **Dr. Phil Simon**, President, Sons of Israel Congregation; **His Worship Mayor Bruce Clarke**, Mayor of the Town of Glace Bay; **Mrs. Bruce Clarke**.



Left to right: **Dr. Phil Simon**, President, Sons of Israel Congregation; **Mrs. Shirlee Fox**, Executive Director Atlantic Jewish Council; **Rivka Peled**; **Joseph Milo**; **Mr. Elliot Marshall**, Vice-President, Sons of Israel Congregation.



Front Row: **Jennie Cherun**, **Libby Cohen**, **Edith Jacobson**, **Nettie Simon**, **Esther Mendelson**, **Daniel Mendelson**.

Back Row: **Elliot Marshall**, **Helen Marshall**, **Phil Simon**, **Ruth Simon**, **Norman Simon**, **Sam Karrel**.

Glace Bay News *June/82*

Yom Ha'Atzmaut 5742—Glace Bay Style

by **Avvie Druker**

What do you do if you live in a small community, in a remote area, where the Jewish population has dwindled from 60 families to 30 in one generation; where young people are moving away; where there are only 2 children of Hebrew School age; and where it is no longer practical to retain a rabbi? If you are **Dr. Philip Simon**, you become President of the Congregation Temple Sons of Israel, you use the power of your personality and intellect to charm, cajole, and inspire a loyal coterie of members, male and female, to "outworship" most other communities and to outperform many others in the pursuit of things Jewish. Worry not—Yiddiskeit is alive and well in Glace Bay.

On April 26, 1982—The Atlantic Jewish Council—Canadian Zionist Federation—Atlantic Region arranged for Yom Ha'atzmaut to be celebrated in Cape Breton in the Glace Bay Talmud Torah. Working with Phil, **Shirlee Fox**, Executive Director of the Atlantic Jewish Council, provided something extra special this year—Shoshana Ron, well-known Israeli singer. Yom Ha'atzmaut is always a special time in Glace Bay, but this guest artist was extra special. She has appeared with **Jan Pearce**, **Carol Channing**, **Sam Levenson**, and **Alan King**. She has performed on Broadway and at the Lincoln Center and her accompanist, **Rami Bar'niv** is a renowned composer and concert pianist.

The evening began with Ma'ariv services. Phil Simon then introduced the guest artist, who immediately captivated the audience. Shoshana sang with power

and yet with soul. She sang in Hebrew, Yiddish (she was born in Poland) and English. Ms Ron's program ranged from Jacques Brel to Hazanot. Her patter between her numbers was pleasant and engaging. She sang and talked about Israel's yearning for peace. She is an excellent ambassador.

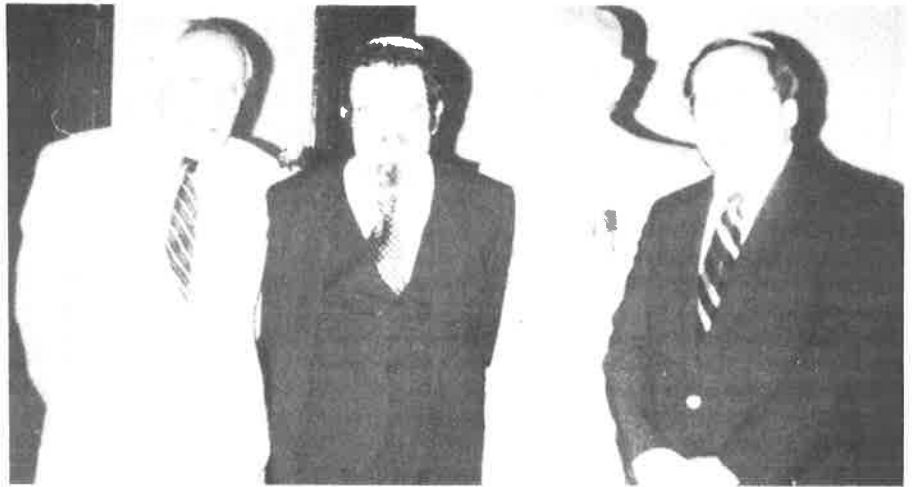
During intermission **Ellie Marshall** proposed a toast to the State of Israel.

Sam (that's little Sam) **Karrel** extended a warm and enthusiastic vote of thanks.

It has been suggested that Shoshana "in concert" bring her message, the strength of Israel's aspirations for peace, to the general public.

May I, a Sydneyite, thank the Glace Bay Community and all those concerned for hosting a very successful Yom Ha'atzmaut.

December/82 Cape Breton News



Left to right: Mr. Sam Sherman, President, Temple Sons of Israel; Rabbi Eli Lagnado; Phil Simon, President, Congregation Sons of Israel; Guest Speaker, Ben Prossin, Vice-

President, Canadian Jewish Congress/Deputy Chairman, Canadian Zionist Federation/Board Member, Canada-Israel Committee.

Israel's 34th Anniversary



by **Dr. Philip Simon**, President
Congregation Sons of Israel
Glace Bay, N.S.

On behalf of Congregations Sons of Israel, Glace Bay, I would like to extend best wishes to Israel's Thirty-Fourth Anniversary.

Ben Prossin Speaks to Joint Breakfast Meeting

On September 12, 1982, the Glace Bay and Sydney congregations joined together for the Sunday morning Minyan at the Glace Bay synagogue. Services were conducted by **Mr. Sam Sherman** and following that, a very tasty breakfast was catered by **Mrs. Jen Chernin**; **Nettie Simon**, **Ruth Simon** and **Ada Simon**.

The Guest Speaker for the occasion was **Mr. Ben Prossin**, a native son of Glace Bay. Ben, in his eloquent, fireside-chat

manner gave an informative address on Israel's invasion of Lebanon to eradicate the P.L.O. menace.

He spoke about the distorted view Israel received from the media, and he also speculated about future events in the Mid-east, especially with reference to President Ronald Reagan's plan and the Arab Summit. Ben was thanked by **Dr. Garson Lecker** and following that grace after meals was recited. Chairman of the day was **Dr. Philip Simon**.

Cape Breton News

LIGHTS - CAMERA - ACTION

By Ellie Marshall

(Screen Snoop and T.V. Journalist)

Jan/84

Atlantic Jewish Council Arranges Rolider Visit to Glace Bay

GLACE BAY GOES HOLLYWOOD
Glace Bay becomes Hollywood and have their own Richard Burton and Greer Garson.

With the filming of "Bay Boy" in Glace Bay, two of its own Jewish Community members, Sander Zilbert and Fanny Shore, have small but important roles in the film.

Dan Petrie, formally from Glace Bay, is a highly successful Hollywood director (Fort Apache - The Bronx,



In Costume: Fanny Shore and Sander Zilbert.

Bramble Bush and The Betsy). He is the director and writer of the story. Dan said he is very pleased with Sander's and Fanny's performances.

Sander, in his role, has the great pleasure of performing in a scene with the great European actress, Liv Ullman. He remarked what a natural and delightful person she was.

So, congratulations to Sander and Fanny on their exciting experience of performing in a feature film.

GLACE BAY HONOURS LIONEL DRUCKER

by Ruth Simon

Lionel Druker, and his Israeli-born wife, Rochelle, recently returned to Cape Breton for a short visit with his family. A native of Sydney, he moved to Israel before 1948, where he met and married Rochelle. They have three Sabra sons.

At a reception held at his brother Avvie's home, Lionel was honored by the Cape Breton Council of Hadassah-Wizo, who enrolled him as a Life Associate Member. Council was proud to pay tribute to Lionel, a true Zionist, who had fought in various wars and for his untiring efforts on behalf of Israel.

National officers Shirley Dubinsky, National Vice-President, and Edith Lecker, Nova Scotia/Newfoundland Regional Vice-President.



Dr. Ahmos Rolider of Israel, was among the special guests at a recent meeting of the Glace Bay Rotary Club. Rolider is a professor of psychology and this year is on the faculty of Mount St. Vincent University in Halifax. During his visit to Glace Bay, he also addressed the Congregation Sons of Israel and visited the day care centre in New Aberdeen. Shown above are left to right, Dr. Rolider and Dr. Philip Simon. (Post Photo)

Visiting Lecturer Addresses Police

Members of the Glace Bay Town Police Department were lectured by Dr Ahmos Rolider of Israel who was in the Glace Bay area visiting various groups.

Police Chief Mark Gardiner said Dr. Rolider is currently on an exchange program with Mount St. Vincent University and his lecture to the Department members pertained to traffic and safety.

The visiting Professor of Psychology was very informative. Police Chief Gardiner said all members of the department who assembled to hear him were highly pleased with his presentation.

In his address, Chief Gardiner said, Dr. Rolider touched on speeding,

pedestrian safety and outlined to the police many programs which are followed in other countries.

Dr. Rolider was particularly interested in the program initiated by the local department several years ago among pedestrians "Point your way to Safety", Chief Gardiner said.

Chief Gardiner said that as a follow up at the annual meeting of the Chiefs of Police next March there will be a slide presentation on the program being promoted by Dr. Rolider.

Words of appreciation were extended to the visitor and Chief Gardiner said gratitude must also go to Dr. Philip Simon through the Glace Bay Rotary Club for arranging the visit with the department.

(Reprint Cape Breton Post)

Sept./83



Lionel Druker accepting Associate Life Membership Award from Ruth Simon, President, Cape Breton Council of Hadassah-Wizo. Jean David Membership Chairperson, looks on.

Glance Bay has Gala Chanukah Celebration

January/85

by Ruth Simon

With Latkes, music and nostalgia, Glance Bay celebrated Chanukah in a meaningful and delightful manner.

Sunday evening, December 23rd, our program was initiated with a Maariv Service at Synagogue immediately followed by cocktails in the Talmud Torah Hall, lighting of candles by **Stewart Sable** with the appropriate blessings and the singing of "Mooz Tzur", by all in attendance, followed by the Blessing.

A delicious sit-down dinner catered by the Hebrew Ladies Aid was served by some of our university students.

A short program with **Dr. Philip Simon** as M.C. kept the tradition of Chanukah in proper perspective.

A medley of Chanukah songs with community participation added to the festive spirit of this beautiful holiday. Then, a five-piece orchestra and vocalist brought our dancers to the floor with exciting enthusiasm, and the Horah proved just that!

Attractive decorations and colourful table settings contributed to the festivities. And, how nice to have Sydney and New Waterford friends join and share with us in our "Festival of Lights" party.

New Year's Message

Sept/83 5744



Dr. Philip Simon
President, Congregation Sons
of Israel, Glance Bay

I would like to extend heartfelt wishes for a year filled with health, happiness prosperity to our members and all Israel.

Let us hope that we will draw inspiration from the oncoming solemn days and also that we will actively participate in support of synagogue and community effort.

Also, let us not try to revise Jewish priorities and values for the sake of expediency.

May a just peace be formulated for Israel and the surrounding countries.

SHIRLEY CHERNIN HONoured DURING SPECIAL CHANUKAH CELEBRATIONS

January/86

The Jewish holiday of Chanukah, known as the "Festival of Lights", was celebrated at the Talmud Torah in Glance Bay on December 8th.

This holiday recalls the triumph of a band of Hebrew warriors who overthrew the Syrian forces, trying to impose pagan and idol worship. Having cleansed the temple, the Hebrews found a cruze of oil which was to last for one day, but miraculously lasted eight days. To commemorate this event candles are lit in the home successively for eight days. The event is also highlighted by special prayer, special food, games and gift giving.

Following dinner, the candle lighting ceremony was performed by **Stuart and Andrew Sable** and then traditional Chanukah songs were sung by those in attendance.

Dr. Phillip Simon, Chairman for the evening, welcomed the gathering and brought some nostalgic reflections of the holiday in years gone by when the congregation was much larger. A presentation was made by **Mr. Mark Chernin** to **Mr. Elliot Marshall** for his Israeli effort.

Highlight of the evening was the honouring of **Mrs. Shirley Chernin** by Congregation Sons of Israel. The chairman outlined the many organizations, projects and associations which Mrs. Chernin has been associated, both locally and nationally. It was noted that despite her heavy commitment she maintained a close interest with the local community and with Jewish organizations.



Following the presentation of a plaque by the congregation, a surprise film of years gone by was shown. It was the era when Mrs. Chernin was director of Sunday School and fond memories prevailed.

A bouquet of roses was presented by **Dr. Garson Lecker** from Mrs. Chernin's family. Mrs. Chernin responded gracefully and acknowledged the lovely evening and the accolades presented to her. An evening of dancing followed.

Reprint. Cape Breton Post, December 20, 1985.

NOSTALGIC NIGHT FOR GLANCE BAY COMMUNITY

It was indeed a very nostalgic time for the Glance Bay Jewish community when their Rabbi of 1933-1942 returned for a visit.

While in Glance Bay, he took the time to visit old friends and congregants. Escorted by one of his former pupils, **Elliott Marshall**, three hours Friday afternoon were spent at the cemetery where each and every grave stone was visited.

The following is a poem composed by **Ellie Marshall**, dedicated to **Rabbi Kershenblatt**:

"The Return of Rabbi Kirchenblatt"

He interprets the book, he's great with the sword,

He leads his flock, and fears the Lord,

It's not a plan, he carried no plot,

It's the natural return of Rabbi Kirshenblatt.

He came to us in '33, a lesson for all a prayer for Thee,

It was your choice, a little, a lot To receive some knowledge from Kirchenblatt.

He stayed in the Bay for nye on ten

It makes no matter why or when

He went on up to the big centre

But he was our Rabbi and our mentor.

Now here he is still staunch and strong

To hear his wisdom you can never go wrong

It was really beshert that he return

To check the fold, if the sparks still burn.

September/83

January / 87

85TH ANNIVERSARY AT GLACE BAY — CHANUKAH CELEBRATION

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GLACE BAY JEWISH COMMUNITY 1901 - 1986

1. Original Jewish families in early 1890's:
H. Brody, S. Fine, Simon Burnstein, S. Rosenblum, H. Davidson,
B. Abramson, Fred Lighter, S. Marcus, Solomon Ein, Hyman Ein,
B. Green and J. Hamburg
2. In 1900 — Sons of Israel Society of Glace Bay was formed and
registered in Halifax on April 4, 1901.
3. 1902 — Synagogue was completed at a cost of five thousand
dollars. Rabbi Rabinowitz of Saint John, N.B. came to officiate
at the opening.
4. The long-reigning Presidents: Mr. Sol Shore, 19 years; Mr. William
Chernin, 18 years; and the present President, Dr. Philip Simon,
15 years.
5. In the 1920's the Jewish population of Glace Bay reached a high
of 92 families.
6. In 1928 the present Talmud Torah was erected at a cost of \$15,000.
7. 1948 — The interior of Shul was renovated with no basic changes
in orthodox format.
8. The 50th and 75th Anniversaries were acknowledged.
9. 1986 — Talmud Torah renovated.
10. Glace Bay Jewish population dwindles to 40 households.
11. May God give us strength to continue!!!

Another highlight of the evening was the honouring of three members for their dedicated services to Congregation Sons of Israel. The honourees were **Mr. Len Schelew, Mr. Norman Simon and Mrs. Jen Cherun**. They were each presented with a plaque and responded very gratefully.

The committee was thanked for a beauti-

ful dinner and to all others who were involved. It was a lovely affair as the spirit of the holiday permeated the hall. The 85th anniversary and the honouring of people in the community enhanced the evening. Following the formal program, the tables were moved to the side and dancing commenced.



By Dr. Philip Simon

A gala Chanukah celebration took place at the Talmud Torah in Glace Bay on the second day of Chanukah corresponding to the 26th day of Kislev.

The evening's event commenced with Maariv services in the synagogue. Following this, cocktails were served in the Talmud Torah and then the gathering of people from Sydney, New Waterford, locally and guests sat down to a beautiful chicken dinner with "latkes" being the traditional dish.

Following dinner, **Dr. Phil Simon**, president of the congregation, welcomed everyone and spoke briefly on the origin and significance of Chanukah. The candles were lit by **Jason Cohen**, assisted by brother **Matthew**, with the appropriate blessings, and then a Chanukah sing-song ensued with audience participation. The hall was beautifully decorated with streamers, dreidls and Happy Chanukah posters and the spirit of Chanukah prevailed.

It was also time to celebrate the congregation's 85th anniversary. An original article from the local newspaper in 1901 telling about the congregation's origin and the start of the synagogue construction was read by **Ruth Simon**.

A toast to the congregation's 85th was given by **Miss Fanny Cohen**, president of Glace Bay Hadassah Wizo organization, while greetings from the Sydney congregation were rendered by Sydney president, **Max Lubetski**.

L-r: Mr. Len Schelew, Mrs. Jen Cherun and Mr. Norman Simon are being presented plaques by Dr. Philip Shimon, President of Congregation Sons of Israel, for their dedicated services to the Jewish community of Glace Bay.



Jason Cohen lighting the Chanukah candles on the night of celebration. Jason is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Myron Cohen.

September / 87

SYNAGOGUE ON THE BAY



By Ellie Marshall

A visit was made by the cast of **Fiddler on the Roof** to the Glace Bay Synagogue to observe the Sabbath Services July 18th, 1987, invited by the President of Congregational Sons of Israel, **Dr. Phil Simon**.

They wanted to experience some of the atmosphere and environment of an orthodox Synagogue and the traditions. They

thought perhaps it would help to absorb a little extra feeling in their performance.

During the services, while Dr. Phil and I sat in the balcony in the Sanctuary, overlooking the congregants, I couldn't help observing the deep concentration and meditation of the cast members, taking it all in, and following the English side of our prayer books, not missing one link of the

FIDDLER GOES TO SYNAGOGUE



By Dr. Philip Simon

Despite the absence of a Rabbi, the Glace Bay Jewish community continues to maintain tradition. Credit goes mostly to a spirited hard core group who realize the necessity to keep the shul doors open for all occasions. For the past seven weeks, graduations, birthdays and other simchas have been highlighted by attending services in shul followed by a beautiful Kiddish.

A highlight of our community has been an invitation to the cast of **Fiddler on the Roof** (over 60 people) to attend a Shabbas service. This supplemented their understanding of Jewish traditions.

At services, **Dr. Philip Simon** gave a twenty minute explanation of the procedures, background and customs as found in the orthodox synagogue. Following services, a beautiful Kiddish was hosted by the ladies of the congregation in the Talmud Torah. The actors and actresses of the play were enthused by the services, the explanations and the Kiddish.

A very warm appreciation for this event was extended by **Mrs. Thelma McKenzie**, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Festival on the Bay. At a pre-show dinner, the mayor of Glace Bay took time to praise the gesture of the Jewish community and expanded on the contributions of our citizens.

rituals and procedures of the services.

While making these observations, and from the thoughts racing through my mind, I was inspired to compose a poem dedicated to the cast and the great effort of "Festival on the Bay".

I call it **Synagogue on the Bay**.

Shalom, shalom, to Jim and his troop —
Welcome to services, from our synagogue group,

The repairs have been made, to the Fiddle and the roof,

You can check the Bible, if you want the proof.

There's Fruma, Yente, Tszeitel, and Motel,
Don Gilles, Marguerite doing the shuttle;
Cathy, Jeanette, Didi and Melinda,
Catching all the gossip, looking through the winda.

Dr. Phil is our Dentist, Helen our match-maker,

I forgot the name of the village baker;
The gas may not be from Texaco or Gulf,
But the Kosher meat, I expect, is from Lazer Wolfe!

We look forward to seeing Tevye and the gang;

Don't worry about the accent, give it a Cape Breton twang.

We salute you, applaud, shout Hooray, Hooray,

And thank the Lord for his Gift of "Festival on the Bay!"

Greetings from Rabbi Saul I. Aranov of The Baron De Hirsch Hebrew Benevolent Society Beth Israel Synagogue. I salute the men and Women of Congregation Sons of Israel on your Centenary celebration of service to the Glace Bay Jewish Community. The Torah poses what is it that G-d desires of us? The Rabbis expound not "Mah" — What, but Me 'ah", one hundred blessings G-d wants to hear us recite every day. By your devotion to prayer through your Minyan attendance you have surely fulfilled your holy mission. A hundred years is not just a solitary point in time, it is a continuum of a century of reverential service to G-d and compassionate caring for people. Mazel Tov on your milestone achievement.

Rabbi Saul Aranov

Dec /89

Glace Bay Rotary Club Honours Two Members



The Glace Bay Rotary Club, at a special meeting, honoured two of its members. **Dr. Philip Simon** (left) was presented with a beautiful scene of Renwick Brook, on the occasion of his leaving the Glace Bay Community. **Mr. Max Lubetzki** (right) was made "a Paul Harris Fellow", which is the highest award Rotary confers on its members for achievement.

Veterans of World War II

Composed by Mr. Ellie Marshall
President of the Glace Bay Jewish
Community

*This story you tell back when you say,
50 years ago, young boys were they,
Quickly called to duty no time to play,
and ordered to prepare for the tough D-
Day.*

*They fought in the air, and on the shore,
as on the football field, they had to score.
The battle of Britain, with the odds unfair,
victory was a must, life and death to share.*

*In the middle of class, at all Canada High,
no questions asked, the strong and the shy.
The tall and the slim, they were ready to die,
at 17 years, and they waved good-bye.*

*As we watch you grow, "Hey kids", we say,
you're not to blame, but the world's O.K.
Keep alert, be just, and take the time to
pray,
we only ask that you do it, in your own free
way".*

JEWISH CONGREGATION DONATES ARK TO NATIONAL MUSEUM

The Jewish congregation of Glace Bay has donated a beautiful Ark to "A Coat of Many Colors" which is a major exhibition section of the Canadian Museum of Civilization, located in Ottawa, Ontario.

The museum will depict two hundred years of Jewish life in Canada and will show the countless areas in which the Jewish community has helped to shape Canadian society. The exhibition is scheduled to open in April 1990 and then go on a cross country tour. The Ark (Oran Kadesh) which is used to house Torah scrolls is situated in the synagogue facing the east.

The Glace Bay Jewish Community had this Ark constructed in 1923. A prime advocate to build it was the late Mrs. Dubinsky, the mother of Judge Louis Dubinsky. The congregation commissioned a Mr. Cohen from Montreal to come to Glace Bay. We know that he was a very learned man, a master craftsman and a keeper of the Sabbath. He was given a room in the Magonet household on Union Street and worked on the Ark for several months. The Ark is hand carved and something to behold.

This Ark remained in the synagogue from 1923 until 1948 when the synagogue was renovated. Above the protests of some, the Ark was moved to the social hall next door and a new Ark was built to keep in line with the new renovation in the synagogue.

The hand carved Ark will certainly be spectacular sight for the museum. It reflects the architecture of a bygone era and also depicts the work of a master craftsman.

The Ark was varnished by a Mr. Morris Zilbert, a former resident of the town.



Canadian Jewish War Veterans Atlantic Post #4

When the Call to Arms came in 1939-1945, the Jewish Community of Glace Bay enlisted 69 of their best sons and daughters.

On the occasion of "Glace Bay 100" we salute and remember them with gratitude.

Congratulations and best wishes to all celebrants of the 100th Anniversary of Congregation Sons of Israel.

Gar T. Meltzer
Post Commander
Saint John, N.B.

I.J. Davis
Adjutant
Saint John, N.B.

Dec. / 89

Congregation Sons of Israel Honour the Simons

By Marta Sue Chernin

On October 29, 1989, Congregation Sons of Israel, Glace Bay, NS, hosted a dinner of tribute honouring **Dr. Philip & Ruth Simon** for their years of dedicated service to the community. It was a tribute in the event of their leaving Glace Bay and settling in Toronto.

The Chairman of the evening was **Elliot Marshall**, the new President of the Congregation. Friends and family gathered for this occasion in the Talmud Torah. Mr. Marshall opened the dinner of tribute by stating:

"Our President is semi-retiring, but he's still going to be with us, as our Honourary

accolades; roses were presented by **Fanny Cohen** on behalf of the Hebrew Ladies Aid; and **Bella Shore** presented a certificate of honour to Youth Village in Israel on behalf of the Glace Bay Chapter of Hadassah.

Philip's comments to Israel were suitably acknowledged with a plaque in recognition of his leadership and involvement with the United Israel Appeal, which was presented by **Martin Payne**, Regional Chairman of the UIA. Congratulatory remarks were made by **Dr. Garson Lecker**, President of Temple Sons of Israel, Sydney, **Mr. Sol Shore**, past-president



Dr. Phil and Ruth Simon are presented by Elliot Marshall, with a plaque commemorating the donation by their children to Boystown, Israel.

President, as an Associate Member, as a summer resident and many trips in between. What's 1200 miles between drinks today? Who knows, we may hire him as 'Ba'al Kriah' or 'Ba'al Tfilah', for the high holiday."

Sander Zilbert made the traditional blessing over the bread, the Hamotzi; followed by a toast to the Queen and a toast to the State of Israel. In the Chairman's remarks, Philip was described "as a leader known in the sports world as a 'triple threat'; as a spiritual leader in the Congregation, as a dental surgeon, and as an academic in the community." He continued to say that "Phil and Ruth's presence would be sorely missed, yet the impact of their involvement in every phase of Jewish activity as well as their participation will remain forever in our hearts."

Following dinner, presentations were made by members of the community. Philip was made Honourary President of the Congregation Sons of Israel, with a plaque presented by **Sander Zilbert**. In addition to this honour, the Congregation donated a seat in the Savoy Theatre in their name. Ruth received many

of Congregation Sons of Israel, **Mrs. Ruth Hirsch** and **Nate Simon**, family members of the honourees.

A special presentation was made on behalf of their children and grandchildren, as **Elliot Marshall** read the inscription on the plaque honouring Phil and Ruth on this occasion, by making a contribution to Boystown, Israel. **Emmanuel Zabar** brought greetings from Israel and the Atlantic Jewish Council.

Dr. Simon made a heartwarming response as he thanked the community, and reflected on a lifetime of association with the people of Glace Bay.

"It makes me feel proud that Ruth and I have been part of the effort to maintain our Jewish heritage. Although we are moving away, Glace Bay will be uppermost in our minds and hearts."

Dr. Simon spoke about the great spirit in the Congregation. He said he was grateful for the tribute paid him, yet he felt that his predecessors and the many Jewish Organizations and the dedicated leaders who laid the infrastructure of the Jewish Community should

receive a great many accolades. He also projected much praise to the hard core who worked with him during his tenure.

Dr. Simon said the tribute paid was balanced by the fact that he derived a lot of satisfaction, a lot of nachus and an inner agreement with Jewish tradition. He felt his life, his family were all enriched with his association with the Shul. He paid high tribute to his wife who gave him support and was an ardent worker in all ladies' organizations.

A recent visitor to the synagogue commented on the spirit of the congregation, the ability of many members to participate in the services and the general involvement of so many members.

The visitor was told that because we have no rabbi, it is incumbent upon us to do everything ourselves. This has a very positive effect in that it involves and makes members feel more responsible and more dedicated to keep the community viable to perpetuate traditions. Many members who were on the outside looking in have become part of the hard core.

As well, **Dr. Simon** was behind the arrangements to donate the old **Aron Hakodesh** to the "Coat of Many Colours" exhibit, depicting 200 years of Judaism in Canada.

He congratulated the new executive, wished them every success in maintaining the synagogue with the traditional values. The evening concluded with the customary Blessings after the meal, followed by **Hatikvah**. The delicious dinner was complimented by the music of **Jimmy MacNeill**.

Poem Dedicated to Philip Simon Composed and read by Elliot Marshall

He's a master of the podium
A wizard at the drill
His crafts extend through thick and thin,
With a multitude of skill.
If you mention a certain project to him,
Or even a new pill
He'll make up a script for it
And direct it for the thrill.
The guy is made of stuff and things,
Some hope a lot of drive,
Not just the mere ingredients
That permits one to survive.
It's in those little wishes,
And large amounts of will
That sparks this man to greater heights
And probably until
He earns his worth, but always keep
The Faith, of course, it's **Dr. Phil!**
We're not thinking he is leaving,
Or even going away.
It's really an extended trip,
Without a cent to pay.
We all say, under his leadership,
It was such a wonderful thrill
Let's hear it for our President,
The perpetual **Dr. Phil!**

June/91 Cape Breton connections...

Editor's Note: The following letter was received in our office, and we thought it might be of interest to our readers. **Dr. Robert Ein** is a native of Glace Bay, the son of Mr. & Mrs. Isaac Ein. Dr. Ein is currently practising gastroenterology in New Jersey.

Dr. Robert Ein
Emerson, New Jersey



Dear Dr. Ein:

It takes an entire organization to put together a winning team. As a member of our consultant medical staff, you have served as a vital member of our organization and team. We ask you to assist us from time to time on a moment's notice and we appreciate your expedient cooperation. You have always come through for us despite your busy schedule. We could not field a team and give them the best in quality medical care without people like yourself.

On behalf of the entire Giants organization, I congratulate you as a member of our 1990 Super Bowl XXV team. Thank you for your dedication and I look forward to continued association with you and your staff.

Sincerely,

Ronnie P. Barnes, A.T.,C.
Head Athletic Trainer
New York Football Giants



Dr. Robert Ein...
...and his brother David,
AJC Executive Member



Glace Bay native donates ambulance

by Joel Jacobson

A dying wish of **Ben Lipkus** has come true. The Glace Bay, NS, furniture store operator passed away September 14, 1996, the second day of Rosh Hashanah, at 79 years of age. In his last few months, he decided to donate an ambulance to Israel through Canadian Magen

David Adom for Israel which provides health care supplies and emergency equipment.

"This wish has been granted," said **Sidney Lipkus**, Ben's son, who is still running the family business. "My mother was all for it. And we have dedicated the ambulance to my father and to his and my mother's late parents." The ambulance, bought in Pennsylvania by the Montreal-based Magen David organization, arrived in Glace Bay May 18 for dedication and then was shipped to Montreal for transfer to Israel.

"We probably donate about eight ambulances a year from Canada," said **Shirley Moscovitch** of the Magen David office. "But this is the first ever from Atlantic Canada." She said dedication plaques will be placed on the driver's and passenger's doors. The driver's door will be dedicated to Ben Lipkus and his parents, **Beinus and Fanny Lipkus**. The other door will display a plaque naming Ben Lipkus and **Shalom and Elka Cohen**, parents of **Mrs. Ben (Rachel) Lipkus**.

Sidney Lipkus said his father, born in Sydney Mines, followed his father into the furniture business. "My grandfather came from Russia and was a peddler originally. He opened the furniture store and had his four sons involved with him. Now I'm carrying on the family tradition." He said his parents (mother Rachel was born in Glace Bay) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary August 11, about a month before Ben passed away. They had two sons. **Barry** lives in Toronto.

"One other wish my father had was that Barry would say kaddish as often as possible. He knew I couldn't because it is difficult to get daily minyans (at Glace Bay's Orthodox Sons of Israel Synagogue). I go to Sydney each weekend when they have services. But Barry is living in Toronto and has been able to attend daily minyans there. We're trying to grant my father's every wish."

Law Doctorate

On May 15, Glace Bay native **Dr. Daniel S. Nathanson**, former mayor, school board chair and public health officer for New Waterford, received a Doctorate of Laws, Honoris Causa from the University College of Cape Breton. Dr. Nathanson is married to **Edith (Hirsch)**, father to **Garth, Sheila, Norine and Ian**, and has four grandchildren.

Summer/93



In March a major program displaying the ethnic diversity and multiculturalism to be found in Cape Breton was staged at the Glace Bay High School, arranged by the Student Heritage Day Committee. Mrs. Shirley Chernin with the able assistance of Fanny Cohen participated at this event by explaining the Passover Celebration and the significance of each of the foods associated with the Seder. Fanny Cohen proudly shows the Jewish Community's Passover Table at the Student Heritage Day in Glace Bay.

June / 91

The Cape Breton Jewish Club of Toronto

by Sam Newman, Vice-President

The recently formed Cape Breton Jewish Club held its first function on Saturday evening, April 13th, at the Earl Bales Community Centre. A capacity crowd of over 200 came together for the first reunion of Cape Breton Jews living in the Toronto area.

There was an air of excitement as people arrived with the anticipation of meeting friends and neighbours they had not seen for many years. Three generations of former residents of Sydney, Glace Bay, New Waterford and Whitney Pier were filled with joy and emotion as they greeted each other. People also came from Montreal, Ottawa, Kingston, Hamilton, St. Catharines and Michigan, especially for the event. There were possibly as many Jewish people present as are left in Cape Breton.

Irvin Sherman hosted a program featuring remarks from Club President, Dr. Phil Simon, Rabbi M. Kirshenblatt, who served the Glace Bay Congregation for ten years, an interview with Dr. Jack Land, a physician in Glace Bay and Newfoundland for forty-five years, and a brief history of the origin of the Jewish community by Dr. A. A. (Bucky) Epstein.

Sharon (Shore) Jacobson and Enid (Land) Lesser set up an exhibit of his-



Pictured left to right is the Executive of the Cape Breton Jewish Club, Dr. Sam Newman, Vice-President, Dr. Philip Simon, President, Lisa Green, Secretary and Dr. Buddy Epstein, Treasurer.

torical photographs, documents and memorabilia from down home.

Dr. Buddy Epstein and Lisa (Simon) Green and their helpers worked tirelessly at the registration table to get name tags on everyone.

The generous refreshments arranged by Jack Shore and Dr. Sam Newman

and their hard working committee topped off a wonderful evening.

The Club is planning a Cape Breton picnic this summer and has many ideas for future programs and projects to get Cape Bretoners together and to try to maintain contact with the still vital communities down east.

Farewell Kiddush to the Talmud Torah

by Elliot Marshall, President,
Glace Bay, Nova Scotia

Glace Bay Congregation, Sons of Israel, is in the final stages of selling its Talmud Torah Community Centre building, built in 1927, separate but adjacent to the synagogue. It is being purchased by the Town of Glace Bay to be used as a library.

It is a sign of the times. The Jewish community is decreasing in numbers, and it has become too much of a burden, financially, to maintain the two buildings. It is a sad time for us, but we had a "Farewell Kiddush" on April 27, 1991, after the Shabbat services. Combined with that, we honoured Len Schelew, a stalwart, hard-core member, who carried the ball all year, but especially when

one-third of our core members go south for the winter.

I read somewhere: "Blessed is he who expects nothing for he is never disappointed"; that in my mind, is part of Len Schelew's philosophy and it is a good one. Not everyone can rationalize that way because most of us dream the impossible and expect miracles that never happen. You have to make miracles happen, but never expect them. This philosophy also holds true for Len when applied to prayer. You pray because you want to pray, and you pray for yourself; you can't pray for someone else--that is, religious prayer. Len, you and the Talmud Torah. You could say the Talmud Torah was your child; you kept it warm when it was cold, you paid the bills for it,

so it wouldn't be taken from us. You dressed it and kept it maintained to keep its dignity at all times. When someone hurt it, by damage, you saw to it that it was immediately repaired to make it better. That's the way Len made his statement! Len, maybe we don't show it on a daily basis or even a weekly one, but we do appreciate of the work and effort you have put forth, you alone.

Fanny Cohen, President of the Ladies' Aid, spoke on behalf of all the Ladies of the community, commended Len for his fine efforts, and his leadership and direction, especially regarding the synagogue. It has been said and we say it humbly, that our Kiddush in Glace Bay is the finest in Atlantic Canada.

Greetings from Ben-Gurion University

by Leo H. Marcus

National Executive Vice-President

On behalf of the Canadian Associates of Ben-Gurion University, I am pleased to extend greetings and best wishes to the Jewish community of Glace Bay and especially to all of those who have helped Congregation Sons of Israel to achieve 100 years of meaningful existence.

As I travel across Canada, I am continually amazed at the great number of Jewish leaders, active in a plethora of organizations, who trace their roots back to Glace Bay, Nova Scotia.

Enjoy your 100th Anniversary celebration and continue your dynamic contribution to Canadian Jewish life.

Cape Breton Council of Hadassah-WIZO

by Evelyn Davis

Despite declining membership, which necessitated a more condensed format, the 1994 edition of the Bazaar, sponsored by the Cape Breton Council of Hadassah-Wizo enjoyed the same public acceptance as in past years.

This year's convenor **Diana**

Schwartz was assisted by **Edith Lecker** and **Shirley Chernin**. All available members participated, including a number of male members of the congregation.

Members of the Glace Bay Chapter of Hadassah-WIZO and Sisterhood of the Sons of Israel Congregation held a tea to



Etta Chernin with convenor Diana Schwartz at the Hadassah-WIZO Bazaar.



Fanny Cohen - honouree

honour **Fanny Cohen**, who has been holding the dual presidential portfolios for many years.

Shirley Chernin presented **Fanny** with a lovely clock on behalf of the membership. She thanked **Fanny** for her tireless efforts to hold regular meetings and keep the community together.

Myrna Yazer, Regional Coordinator, was the guest speaker when the Cape Breton Council of Hadassah-Wizo held a Youth Aliyah tea at the Delta Hotel in Sydney.

Under the convenorship of **Ely Friedman**, assisted by **Etta Chernin**, **Anita Lubetsky**, **Helen Marshall** and **Brenda Columbus** - the campaign was a tremendous success.

Myrna introduced the newest project of Hadassah-Wizo, "Women for Women". This project will assist abused women in Israel. She was introduced by **Edith Lecker** and thanked by **Shirley Dubinsky**.



Myrna Yazer

A pot-luck supper was held at the Temple Sons of Israel synagogue to receive reports of the years achievements of the Cape Breton Council of Hadassah-WIZO.

The president, **Evelyn Davis**, thanked the convenors who worked so hard during the year. **Faye David**, president of the Sydney chapter presented **Helen Sherman** with a certificate upon her departure for London, Ontario. Kovet pins were presented to **Libby Cohen**, **Judy Schneiderman**, **Lil Nathanson**, **Diane Schwartz** and **Helen Sherman**.

Shirley Chernin was presented with a Bazaar pin for over 20 years of Bazaar convenorship.

Summer/98

Phil Simon celebrates his 90th birthday

By Raymond Goldman, Glace Bay

The Congregation Sons of Israel, Glace Bay, may have celebrated their last Simcha, honouring **Mr. Phil Simon** on his 90th birthday, May 16, 1998.



Rabbi Ellis, Phil Simon,
Raymond Goldman, Ellie Marshall.

The shul was elaborately decorated with freshly cut flowers and a super kiddush was enjoyed after completion of the Shabbat service, prepared by his wife, **Ada**.

The highlight was that Phil's children came

down from "away", which would be alone sufficient, but they took a leading role in the service and Phil quoted the *Moftar*, which was so profound and elegantly performed. **Rabbi David Ellis** traveled down from Halifax for this special occasion, reading from the Torah and delivering a meaningful, unforgettable sermon. **Mr. Ellie Marshall**, president of the Congregation, quoted a poem, expressing our love for one of our most respected, favourite sons. **Mr. David Ein**, vice president, presented Phil, on behalf of the Congregation, an engraved plaque to commemorate his birthday.

It has been many years since we witnessed so many congregants and visitors to our shul. In addition to immediate family members, three of Phil's nephews flew in from Toronto and Ottawa.

Phil Simon's 90th birthday will always be remembered. □

Remembering Glace Bay

By Philip Simon, Past President, Congregation Sons of Israel (Glace Bay),
President of Cape Breton Jewish Club (Toronto)

Much has been in the media about the final days of the Glace Bay Jewish community. The picture is depressing since the burden of phasing out is left to so few. What is to be done with the Shul, the Talmud Torah, the Torahs, the Shul rituals, the care of the cemetery are all matters to be addressed.

What displeased me about the documentaries on the dying community of Glace Bay was the neglect to tell about the glorious days when one could call it a model in maintaining and perpetuating Jewish values and traditions. Even when a person has passed away, a eulogy will tell of the positive things one has achieved in his life time.

Coming to Glace Bay in 1935 from a small village (Birch Grove) which is five miles away, the town had a general population of twenty-three thousand and the main industry was coal mining.

At that time the Jewish community, had about eighty families. There was a Shul, a Talmud Torah, a Rabbi, a Teacher and shochet and a lot of organizations were present - Congregation, Zionist organizations, Ladies' Aid, Hadassah-Wizo, Young Israel, Young Judaea, Habimah players. Most of the Jewish community kept kosher, in fact, at one time there were three kosher butchers there and the slaughtering was done locally.

Rabbi Kirshenblatt, who is 92 and living in Toronto, serviced the Jewish community from 1932 to 1941. He attests to the vibrancy and dedication of Jewish life both in the Shul and Talmud Torah.

We remember the many Chanukah and Purim plays as well as other productions. There guest artists who were brought in, especially **Yitzhak Perlman**, who was brought in by the State of Israel

Bonds. We had a young Israel organization which held separate youth services, with our own members officiating.

Many have made a contribution to the community. I will mention three Presidents in my time. The late **William Chernin** rendered dedicated services. His efforts to construct the Talmud Torah, his appeals for the downtrodden at the time of the World War II, and his strong leadership in the community made his mark as President.

Saul Shore, a long acting President and Secretary, was always in the forefront of maintaining the Congregation. His efforts to lure Rabbis to Glace Bay, so far from the market, were always frustrating.

And, yours truly, served as President for seventeen years - dedicated to Shul services, worked with youth, directed plays, renovated the Talmud Torah, set up a cemetery fund and donated an Aron Kodesh to the Coat of Many Colours which was viewed across Canada, New York and Israel.

I suppose the sun is setting on our proud community but we who lived there, and we who helped in its maintenance, will share in a beautiful dream of yesteryear.

We have formed a Cape Breton Jewish Club in Toronto. We meet once or twice a year with a focus on the Cape Breton scenario. Probably through this medium we will bring back memories, stories and humor of those recaptured days.

Spring/98

Congregation Sgoolai Israel, in Fredericton, NB, sends Congratulations and Yashar Koach to Congregation Sons of Israel in Glace Bay on the event of its 100th Anniversary. Chazak chazak v'nitchazeak - Be strong, Be strong, and may we all be strengthened. Rabbi Yochanan Samuels/Robert Brown, Pres.

Shaar Shalom Congregation, Halifax, NS Congratulates the Congregation Sons of Israel on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary. Yascher Koach!

Mazel Tov to the Congregation Sons of Israel On its 100th Anniversary. Your contribution To Atlantic Jewry is legendary. We are all the Beneficiary of your good work.

Beth Israel Synagogue, Halifax, NS

IN MEMORY OF
JOE CHERNIN



It could only have been bad news. I, as the Regional Chaplain, or "roving rabbi," was headed back home one late May morning on the bus after a stay in Glace Bay. Just as we left St. Peter's, the bus driver received a call on his cell phone for me. It was the Acadian Lines in Halifax, with a message to call my wife at the next stop, Antigonish.

Indeed, the news was bad. Get back on the bus and go back where you came from. Mr. Joe Chernin had passed away, and I was being called back for the funeral.

It was the first time in my many travels around the region in the last four years that I ever arrived at the same place I started from, the Sydney bus terminal.

I had just seen Joe three days before, occupying his usual seat over on the south wall of the Glace Bay shul, being a faithful attendant of the minyan as always. He was his own quiet self, not much to say other than just his typical silent reliability. How poignant are the words of our prayers and psalms, which tell us how fragile is our hold on life.

I, of course, knew Joe only over the last few years. How marvelous it was to visit his home in Glace Bay and to enjoy his and Shirley's marvelous hospitality. And then, as I met him in his private realm, he would communicate his great knowledge and pride of Jewish roots and genealogy, showing me a video made by a relative of distant relatives in the former Soviet Union.

Joe and Shirley moved from Glace Bay just about two years ago, to their high-rise apartment on King's Road in Sydney. I often joked to them that, with such a marvelous view as they had there, overlooking Sydney and its harbour, that they had the prime location in town for a restaurant and nightclub! Although the venue was different, their hospitality, their concern for family and community and their commitment to the Glace Bay community did not change. They still were back and forth, looking after the shul, giving people rides, visiting the lonely and the hospitalized.

Joe Chernin was never a great wave-maker, and his name would never appear on any list of visible accomplishments in the annals of history. And yet as we remember him, we see that he was a fine, decent day-to-day gentleman. In our time of the idolatry of the public arena, where people of very little substance are able to manipulate facades and convey images of themselves as they are not; it is refreshing to recall a man who was far more than he may have let on to the world.

The true tribute to Joe's memory was shown by those attended the funeral. The small chapel at Patten's Funeral Home in Glace Bay accommodated less than half of those who came, the others being jammed in the hallway outside. Not only was everyone from the Jewish communities in Glace Bay and Sydney present; so were numerous people from the general community.

But there were also at least two dozen people there, not locals or immediate family—nieces, cousins, friends—many of whom came from long distances and put aside demanding work schedules and even vacations to be present. It would be hard to find another community which has engendered so much solidarity and concern for its people than this little outpost by the sea.

As we come to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Glace Bay community, which Joe would certainly have enjoyed, we see that Joe was one of its true representatives. Not one who stood out in his own way but one who with many like him joined in making a community far more than its individual contributions, a community which is recalled, recognized and treasured by all who know it.

The condolences of all in the Glace Bay community, both local and indeed even Canada- and world-wide, go to his wife Shirley and his daughter Marta Zinkevitch of Halifax and son Mark of Sydney. As everyone knows and as no one is surprised about, Shirley is perhaps the key person responsible for pulling together this reunion in Glace Bay. May all of her efforts be blessed and richly, and may she, Marta, and Mark know that all at the Kum A'heim will be keeping Joe in fond memory. May you and those who miss him be comforted among the other mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Rabbi David Ellis

AMBASSADOR OF ISRAEL



שריר ישראל

July 11, 2001
20 Tammuz 5761

Dear Friends:

It gives me great pleasure to extend greetings and best wishes on behalf of the State of Israel to the Jewish community of Glace Bay, N.S. on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Congregation Sons of Israel.

The unique Jewish community of Glace Bay is a fascinating story of Jews seeking to escape the anti-Semitism of turn-of-the-century Europe for a new life in a new world – Canada. The fortitude and longevity of the community, in a relatively isolated region of Canada, says a great deal about the strength and spirit of the Glace Bay Jewish Community. The Glace Bay Jewish community is an inspiration to Canadian and World Jewry.

I wish all of the present and past residents of Glace Bay a joyous celebration as you mark the 100th anniversary of your synagogue, Congregation Sons of Israel.

Best wishes,

Haim Divon
Ambassador

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